

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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P R 190952Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8229
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7021

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

LONDON FOR NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, MASS, PK, FR
SUBJECT: JACOMET VISIT TO ISLAMABAD

1. POLCOUNS HAD PRIVATE DINNER WITH ADRE JACOMET, FRENCH
NON-PROLIFERATION NEGOTIATOR--HE CALLS HIMSELF THE "FRENCH
GERRY SMITH"--AT THE HOME OF FRENCH DCM DENIS NARDIN
EVENING OF 18 JULY. FRENCH WERE RELAXED AND OPTIMISTIC
JACOMET VISIT WOULD COME OFF WELL, DESPITE BAD NEWS HE
HAD CONVEYED TO GOP. HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS MORE THAN
EVER CONVINCED "FRANCE HAS DONE THE RIGHT THING" IN THE
INTERESTS OF NON-PROLIFERATION.

2. OPTIMISM ON FRENCH SIDE GROWS FROM FACT NO LEAK HAS
OCCURRED ON PAK SIDE THUS FAR AND FROM WHAT APPEARS TO
THEM A MEASURED PAKISTANI FORMULATION OF A RESPONSE,
NOW UNDERWAY. JACOMET EXPECTS TO RECEIVE FORMAL GOP
REACTION IN HIS MEETING WITH CMLA GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ
AT NOON ON 19TH, AND--HE WAS DELIGHTED TO REPORT--HE
HAD BEEN INVITED TO AN MFA LUNCH BY MINISTER OF STATE
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AGHA SHAHI THEREAFTER. HE JOKINGLY WONDERED ALOUD IF
HE SHOULD BRING A "TASTER". HE SEEMED ALSO BUOYED BY
NEWS POLCOUNS BROUGHT OF MFA CANCELLATION OF SCHEDULED
PRESS BACKGROUNDER ON EVENING OF 17TH; BACKGROUNDER
WOULD REPORTEDLY HAVE DEALT WITH NEWSOM VISIT, BUT
JACOMET DOUBTED FRANCE AND REPROCESSING COULD HAVE BEEN
LEFT OUT IF QUESTIONS GOT TOUGH.

3. IMPORTANT IN FRENCH CALCULUS OF SUCCESS OR NON-SUCCESS AT THIS POINT IS HOW MUCH COMMERCIAL DAMAGE THEY ESTIMATE THEIR NON-PROLIFERATION DECISION WILL COST THEM. JACOMET EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN REGARDING THE SALE OF 4 AIRBUS A-300'S --"ONLY INITIALED"--AND THE SAVIEM TRUCK ARRANGEMENTS. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY GENERAL ZIA'S INDICATION TO UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM THAT HE PREFERS MIRAGES (TO OTHER POSSIBLE AIRCRAFT TYPES AVAILABLE FOR ACQUISITION) AND ZIA'S RANKING OF NAVAL EQUIPMENT AS HIS FIRST REQUIREMENT. HE FELT ASSURED THAT THIS WOULD MEET THE RECENT CONTRACT TO PROVIDE TWO ADDITIONAL FRENCH SUBMARINES, RECENTLY SIGNED IN PARIS, WOULD GO FORWARD, DESPITE THE FRENCH CANCELLATION OF THE REPROCESSING DEAL. THE SUBMARINES, HE SAID, ARE A FOLLOW-ON CLASS TO THE DAPHNE TYPE ALREADY SOLD TO PAKISTAN; HE COULD NOT RECALL THE NAME.

4. AMBASSADOR HUMMEL HAS BEEN QUESTIONED BY HIS AE&P COLLEAGUES ABOUT NEWSOM VISIT AND REPROCESSING ISSUE, AND OF COURSE HAS NOT EXPOSED ANY ELEMENT OF FRENCH POSITION. POLCOUNS ASKED JACOMET WHO IN ISLAMABAD KNEW OF FRENCH DECISION TO CANCEL AND/OR JACOMET'S VISIT. JACOMET SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE IRANIANS, THE U.S. AND THE PAKISTANIS, HE HAD PRIVATELY INFORMED THE BRITISH HERE; HE NOTED ALSO THAT THE GERMAN AND INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S IN PARIS HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON THE CANCELLATION. HE HAD NOT
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AND WOULD NOT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE GERMAN AND INDIAN MISSIONS HERE BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR PARIS, VIA KARACHI AND ROME ON THE EVENING OF THE 19TH. HE PROMISED A FULL READ-OUT FROM HIS TALKS ON THE 19TH BEFORE HE LEAVES ISLAMABAD, AND HE LOOKS FORWARD TO A FULL EXCHANGE WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM IN PARIS AT WEEK'S END. HUMMEL

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NNN

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